

James R. Fleischmann  
738 8<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Helena, MT 59601

Candidate Selection Committee  
c/o Legislative Services Division  
State Capitol  
Helena, Montana

January 27, 2012

To Members of the Candidate Selection Committee:

Please accept this letter and the attached resume as my application for the open position of the Montana Commissioner of Political Practices.

I am a citizen of Montana who has lived and worked here since 1985, with a three-year absence for employment in Massachusetts (2004-2007).

Most of my adult working life has been spent as an advocate for the less powerful in our society. In that work, I've often found myself advocating that our political and social system comply with existing laws on behalf of a particular constituency, or advocating for new laws to protect vulnerable constituencies. But the laws of our state and country have proscribed my work life, and I've either worked diligently to see those laws enforced, or worked hard to implement new laws.

It is in that spirit that I'm applying for the job of Montana's Commissioner of Political Practice. Given changing election laws, legal disputes about them, and the seemingly higher stakes and money involved in elections, I feel that it is critical that the Commissioner be a fair arbiter of our state election laws, and that the integrity of Montana's elections is maintained.

Furthermore, I think that the Commissioner should be knowledgeable about the culture and practices of elections in our state. In looking at my resume you can tell that I'm knowledgeable about election practices in our state and, additionally, I've been a partisan. I like to think that I'm the kind of person that is motivated most by fairness and the letter of the law, rather than partisanship.

Thank you in advance for the opportunity to answer any further questions you might have. Feel free to communicate with me by email or telephone.

Sincerely,

James Fleischmann

**JIM FLEISCHMANN**  
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## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

January 2009 –  
March 2010

**Change That Works (SEIU), Montana  
State Director**

Directed a statewide, grassroots campaign to build and demonstrate public support for health care and labor reform in the U.S. Congress, with a specific goal of impacting Senators Baucus and Tester, and U.S. Congressman Denny Rehberg. Supervised a professional staff of communicators and a 16-person organizing program in a successful effort to organize public events in support of health care reform and insure widespread press coverage of the events.

August 2007 -  
December 2008

**Friends of Max Baucus, Montana  
Campaign Manager**

Managed the campaign to re-elect U. S. Senator Max Baucus to his sixth term as a U.S. senator from Montana. Supervise and direct all daily and long-term aspects of running a senate campaign including supervising professional senior team (communications, field staff director, fundraising and administrative team); working with pollsters, senior team members, and the candidate to develop campaign strategy and determine candidate's message; coordinating campaign activities with the Montana Democratic Party's Coordinated Campaign; and serving as the overall Political Director for the candidate.

November 2006 –  
August 2007

**Reclaiming the End of Life Initiative, New Hampshire  
Campaign Coordinator**

Responsible for supervising the overall field campaign for an initiative organized to propel end of life care issues into the New Hampshire presidential primary. Specific duties include outreach to organizations, organizing eight community forums on end of life care issues, and organizing contact between Initiative policy experts and presidential candidates and their campaigns.

November 2004-  
November 2006

**Mass Ballot Freedom Campaign, Boston, Massachusetts  
Campaign Director**

Responsible for all aspects of a statewide ballot initiative conducted in Massachusetts to re-legalize fusion voting, or the cross endorsement. Responsibilities included directing the resources of a community-labor coalition to qualify the initiative for the ballot and then pass it in a statewide referendum. Duties included managing and directing coalition of forty organizations, fundraising and financial management, supervising campaign staff, and directing statewide communications.

November 2003-  
November 2004

**Project Vote, Missoula, Montana**  
**Western Regional Director**

Worked as the regional director for the nation's leading technical assistance and direct service provider to the voter engagement and civic participation community. Directed voter mobilization efforts (registration and get-out-the-vote) in four western "battleground" states (WA, OR, CO and NV) that registered 92,000 new African American and Latino voters and turned them out to vote.

January 2001-  
November 2003

**New Majority Education Fund, Missoula, Montana**  
**Executive Director**

Served as the Executive Director of a fund whose purpose was to probe for opportunities to revive fusion voting in states across the country. Duties included outreach, fundraising, and communications.

December 2001-  
November 2002

**Friends of Max Baucus, Billings, Montana**  
**Field Director**

Directed the field campaign of Sen. Max Baucus's successful 2002 re-election campaign. Duties included hiring, training and supervising sixteen campaign organizers, overseeing the operation of the field program in nine offices across Montana, informally supervising the field component of the Montana Democratic Party's Coordinated Campaign, and serving as a member of the campaign's senior staffing team, responsible for campaign strategy.

**ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE**

Northwest Federation of Community Organizations, Seattle, WA  
Development Director (1998 – 2001)

Oregon Action, Portland, OR  
Interim Executive Director (2000-2001)

Montana People's Action, Missoula, Montana  
Executive Director (1987-1997)

Frank Morrison for Governor, Helena, Montana  
Field Director (1992)

**PERSONAL**

Graduated Cum Laude, Harvard University, 1976

*References available upon request*